

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (cancelled)

Claim 3 (cancelled)

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (withdrawn) A system for managing closure inventory in a bottling facility in which a plurality of different kinds of beverages are bottled in blow molded containers, such system comprising:

plurality of different shrink sleeve materials, each one of said materials corresponding to a particular kind of beverage,

standard undifferentiated closures and blow molded containers being used on all of said plurality of kinds of beverages bottled at said facility,

supply of inventory of said standard closures being maintained at said facility, whereby bottles with any of said plurality of different kinds of beverages are bottled in said containers with standard undifferentiated closures, and differentiation of beverages bottled at said facility is done by applying particular shrink sleeve material to a container corresponding to a particular beverage in said container, wherein particularized shrink sleeves are the primary indicia carried by said containers identifying the particular nature of the contents of said containers.

Claim 9 (withdrawn) A system in accordance with claim 8 wherein said plurality of different shrink sleeve materials differ from one another in color.

Claim 10 (withdrawn) A system in accordance with claim 8 wherein said shrink sleeves are the only indicia differentiating the contents of said containers.

Claim 11 (withdrawn) A system in accordance with claim 8 wherein said containers are made of HDPE.

Claim 12 (withdrawn) A system in accordance with claim 8 wherein each of said standard closures comprises:

a bottle cap having a circular cover,

a skirt depending from the periphery of the cover, the skirt including an interior surface having a radial sleeve engaging undulations for engaging a shrink sleeve applied to said cap whereby the ability of said cap to inadvertently rotate relative to a container to which said cap is applied is restricted.

Claim 13 (withdrawn) A system in accordance with claim 8 wherein said closures are part of a closure arrangement for a container comprising: a bottle cap, a bottle neck, and a shrink sleeve, the bottle neck comprising:

an opening at an upper end of the neck;

an exterior surface having at least one cap engaging protrusion;

a circumferential transfer ring disposed below the cap engaging protrusion;

the neck having first radial sleeve engaging undulations;

the bottle cap comprising,

a circular cover,

a skirt depending from the periphery of the cover, the skirt including an interior surface having second radial sleeve engaging undulations;

the first and second undulations being dimensioned to engage said shrink sleeve and prevent loosening of said cap with respect to said neck after said shrink sleeve is brought into close-fitting contact with said cap and bottle neck; and

said shrink wrap band containing printing and/or coloring to signify the contents and/or the supply of said container.

Claim 14 (withdrawn) A method of bottle cap and shrink sleeve distribution wherein a plurality of bottling facilities served by a distribution center can package different kinds of beverages using standard bottles and standard caps, said method comprising the steps of:

keeping a supply of standard bottle caps at a distribution center and at each of a plurality of bottling facilities served by said distribution center;

keeping a supply of a plurality of different shrink sleeve materials, each one of said materials corresponding to a particular kind of beverage at said bottling facilities at said distribution center and at each of said plurality of bottling facilities;

bottling the desired liquid/beverage at said bottling facilities;

changing the shrink wrap sleeve reel to the desired shrink sleeve material, corresponding to the desired liquid/beverage to be bottled;

providing a shrink wrap seal over the bottle cap and neck to sealingly engage the contents of the container/bottle, said shrink wrap seal being adapted to receive color or printing;

transporting the bottled beverage to a distribution center;

transporting a re-supply of standard closures to said bottling facilities on the return trips from the distribution center to the bottling facilities.

Claim 15 (currently amended) A closure arrangement for a container comprising a bottle cap, a bottle neck, and a shrink sleeve, the bottle neck comprising:

an opening at an upper end of the neck;
an exterior surface of the bottle having at least one cap engaging protrusion;
the bottle cap comprising,
a closed label on one end of said cap forming a covered end, and an open opposite end,
a central opening in said covered end, said label substantially closing said central
opening,

a skirt depending from the periphery of the closed end, said sleeve covering at least a portion of the skirt of said cap and covering the peripheral portions of the covered end of the cap, whereby the sleeve covers at least a portion of the peripheral edges of the label to restrict access to edges of the label without first removing the sleeve, and said sleeve, together with said label,

the bottle cap being dimensioned to receive and engage said shrink sleeve after said shrink sleeve is brought into close-fitting contact with at least a portion of said cap; and

said shrink sleeve containing coloring to signify the contents and/or the supply of said container.

Claim 16 (original) The closure arrangement of claim 15 wherein said neck is part of a blow molded bottle made of a material selected from the group consisting of HDPE, Polycarbonate and PET.

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (original) The closure arrangement of claim 15 wherein said container has a neck, and said neck comprises first shrink sleeve engaging formations and said cap has second shrink sleeve engaging formations, said first and second formations cooperating with said shrink sleeve to limit rotational motion of said cap after said sleeve is shrunk into engagement with said cap and neck.

Claim 19 (cancelled)

Claim 20 (cancelled)

Claim 21(cancelled)

Claim 22 (cancelled)